

Media Pitch Examples – FARA Request

#1

From: Nicholas Koulermos

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 12:00 PM

To: 'valerie.strauss@washpost.com' <valerie.strauss@washpost.com>

Subject: RE: Robert Amsterdam's book on Gülen / charter schools - embargo (9/13)

Hi Valerie,

Touching base, as you previously wrote [in depth about charter schools](#) and Turkey. Robert Amsterdam, International attorney who represents the Republic of Turkey, has just finished a galley version of his book on Fethullah Gülen, ***Empire of Deceit: An investigation of the Gülen Charter School Network***.

I can send you the book, however it will be under embargo until **September 13th at 8am ET**. I have a digital dropbox file I can share.

Please let me know if you can agree to the embargo. Mr. Amsterdam is available to speak about the book and his firm's findings as well.

Thank you,
Nick

Nicholas Koulermos

Director

5W Public Relations

T 646-843-1812

C 614-315-8125

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#2

From: Nicholas Koulermos
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 12:25 PM
To: 'Doug Belkin' <doug.belkin@wsj.com>
Subject: Re: Doug - Amsterdam key findings on Gulen

Hi Doug,

Figured I would send you over the release that's going out this week. Key findings are bullet pointed. Also, I just spoke with Robert – whistleblowers they have access to include; one of Gülen's former 'bag men'; a charter school accountant; school administration officials; parents/students. Thinking some of these could work?

Robert can get on the phone today/tomorrow to chat this through in more detail if you're available.

Best,
Nick

Empire of Deceit Unveils Misconduct and Misuse of Taxpayer Funds and Visa Program at Gülen-Affiliated Charter Schools ***Book Calls for Investigations at Federal, State and Local Levels***

New York, NY (September 13, 2017) – Amsterdam & Partners LLP today released [*Empire of Deceit: An Investigation of the Gülen Charter School Network*](#), a new book that, for the first time, details how the nationwide charter school network controlled by the Gülen Organization enriches itself at the expense of American school children, teachers and taxpayers. According to the book, Fethullah Gülen discovered a financing mechanism to support his organization – the American charter school system. 199 Gülen-affiliated schools across the U.S. generate more than \$750 million in revenue, primarily through government funds on the backs of taxpayers, using a scheme of suspect real estate practices, insider deals and kickbacks with Turkish vendors, and rampant overuse of the H-1B visa program.

"The Gülen charter school network abuses the H-1B visa program and the American educational system to sustain and perpetuate the Gülen Organization," stated Robert R. Amsterdam, Founding Partner at Amsterdam & Partners LLP and lead author of *Empire of Deceit*. "It is time for federal, state and local authorities to join with American parents and teachers to thoroughly investigate this network and protect American children and taxpayers."

Fethullah Gülen is a Turkish imam living in a guarded compound in Pennsylvania with a network of schools around the globe. The authors' investigations allege that through inflated pricing, vendor kickbacks, tithing by Turkish teachers, opaque accounting and other highly suspect arrangements and transactions, the Gülen Organization is able to siphon off millions of dollars from American taxpayers.

Among the book's key findings:

- Misuse of taxpayer funds totaling at least \$243 million.
- More than 6,504 H-1B visas to import unqualified Turkish teachers at a public cost of as much as \$26 million and lost jobs for American teachers.
- Nearly 81,000 students enrolled at Gülen schools across 27 states and District of Columbia.
- Per se human trafficking, as forced tithing threatens Turkish teachers with deportation.
- Widespread manipulation of state mandated testing, grades and attendance figures.
- Lobbying and publicly funded trips to Turkey to influence politicians and local officials.

Empire of Deceit describes the process by which Gülen charter schools create a self-sustaining “closed loop” of operations. The Gülen Organization: 1. builds relationships and lays the groundwork for charter school approvals; 2. creates customers by opening charter schools; 3. establishes Charter Management Organizations and vendors that each individual Gülen school hires for services; 4. opens multiple Gülen charter schools in a single region, to make the network “too big to fail.”

Among dozens of whistleblower testimonials in the book detailing the Gülen network, an American teacher from New York said, “When I was hired I had to go through this whole formal interview process. Turkish teachers would just show up at the school out of nowhere and start right away with no formal interview process. Most of the teachers weren’t even certified to teach in New York State. Turkish teachers always got paid more than the American teachers...” (*Empire of Deceit*, page 633).

Amsterdam & Partners LLP asks federal, state and local authorities to critically analyze the findings of *Empire of Deceit* and to use the information to investigate the Gülen charter school network in order to protect the interests of American schoolchildren, parents, teachers and taxpayers.

Nicholas Koulermos

Director



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#3

From: Nicholas Koulermos

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 12:52 PM

To: 'Brennan, Christopher' <CBrennan@nydailynews.com>

Subject: RE: Robert Amsterdam's book on Gülen - embargo (9/13)

Hi Christopher,

That's great, thank you. Below is the galley copy of the book. If you have follow up questions for Mr. Amsterdam, I can get him on the phone to discuss.

Book (light version, no digital images)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B--zhTzcsk_scjVIUXROSk81RVE

State infographics from book

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B--zhTzcsk_sZktDVzZtME5XRUK

Best,

Nick

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From: Brennan, Christopher [<mailto:CBrennan@nydailynews.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 12:47 PM

To: Nicholas Koulermos <nkoulermos@5wpr.com>

Subject: RE: Robert Amsterdam's book on Gülen - embargo (9/13)

Hello Nick,

Sure. Send it over. Keeping the embargo should not be a problem.

Best,

Christopher

From: Nicholas Koulermos [<mailto:nkoulermos@5wpr.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 10:49 AM

To: Brennan, Christopher

Subject: RE: Robert Amsterdam's book on Gülen - embargo (9/13)

Hi Christopher,

Touching base, as you previously spoke with my client, Robert Amsterdam, for [a piece you wrote](#) in May about Gülen. Amsterdam & Partners now has the galley version of Robert's book on Gülen, *Empire of Deceit: An investigation of the Gülen Charter School Network*.

I can send you the book, however it will be under embargo until **September 13th at 8am ET**. I have a digital dropbox file I can share.

Please let me know if you can agree to the embargo, and I will forward the file.

Thank you,
Nick

Nicholas Koulermos
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#4

From: Nicholas Koulermos

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 8:43 AM

To: 'Jackson, David' <dyjackson@chicagotribune.com>

Subject: RE: Investigative book on Fethullah Gulen from Erdogan's attorney, now available

Hi David,

Great. Yes, I have seen Dan's work and he has connected with Robert Amsterdam previously. Would you be open to a quick call today with Robert to discuss some of the book's key insights?

A link to the book is below. Also linking the state info which includes Illinois.

Book

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B--zhTzcsk_sVFFUbVd5MjVtUWM

State infographics from book

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B--zhTzcsk_sZktDVzZtME5XRUK

Cheers,

Nick

Nicholas Koulermos

Director



5W Public Relations

T 646-843-1812

C 614-315-8125

From: Jackson, David [<mailto:dyjackson@chicagotribune.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 8:37 AM

To: Nicholas Koulermos <nkoulermos@5wpr.com>

Subject: Re: Investigative book on Fethullah Gulen from Erdogan's attorney, now available

THANK YOU Nick I would like a copy if possible please mail to:

David Jackson

Attn News Desk

The Chicago Tribune

435 N Michigan Ave

Chicago IL 60611

I am sure you're already on this but my rival and friend, Sun-Times investigative reporter Dan Mihalopoulos, has been work on the topic locally: <http://chicago.suntimes.com/author/dmihalopouloscst/>

David

Dan Mihalopoulos | Chicago Sun-Times

chicago.suntimes.com

Chicago News, Sports, Politics, Entertainment, Weather and More

From: Nicholas Koulermos <nkoulermos@5wpr.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 7:23:21 AM

To: Jackson, David

Subject: Investigative book on Fethullah Gulen from Erdogan's attorney, now available

David,

Today, **Robert Amsterdam, the international attorney who represents the Republic of Turkey** released his new investigative book, *Empire of Deceit*, which takes an in-depth look at Fethullah Gulen's nationwide charter school network – detailing the network's misuse of taxpayer funds, abuse of the H-1B visa program, and per se human trafficking.

I wanted to know if you would be interested in receiving the book now that it is public. I have a digital galley copy of the book available.

[Here is the press release](#) for the book, detailing key findings. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy. Thank you.

Best,
Nick

Nicholas Koulermos

Director



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